

# **Cooperative Marine Turtle Tagging Program**

Annual Report  
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In April 1999, the management of the Cooperative Marine Turtle Tagging Program (CMTTP) was transferred from the Miami Laboratory of the Southeast Fisheries Science Center to the Archie Carr Center for Sea Turtle Research (ACCSTR) at the University of Florida. This report describes the activities and accomplishments of the CMTTP from 1 April 2002 to 31 March 2003.

### **Annual Activities of the CMTTP**

1. We have maintained a web site for the CMTTP [<http://accstr.ufl.edu/cmttp.html>]. The web site includes instructions on how to obtain tags and applicators and all of the CMTTP documents:  
CMTTP New Policy [request for payment and new tag return address and offer of reward]  
CMTTP Requesting Tags and Data Policy  
CMTTP Protocols for Handling, Tagging, and Measuring Marine Turtles  
*Recommendations for Activities Involving Brief Captivity with Non-Invasive or Minimally Invasive Procedures* by L. H. Herbst and E. R. Jacobson

The web site also has the following two documents in Adobe Acrobat pdf format:

CMTTP Tag Request Form  
CMTTP Tagging Data Form

2. We have continued this year to invest substantial time in cleaning up the computer files transferred to us. In particular, the NEWTAG database required significant effort. Many gaps in the database have been filled as a result of substantial correspondence with CMTTP participants, and many corrections have been made as errors were discovered in the database. As information became available or as information was found in the files, we were able to match the pit tag numbers with flipper tag numbers of individual turtles.
3. From 1 April 2002 through 31 March 2003, we purchased 4000 Inconel tags (style 681) and 20 applicators from National Band and Tag Company. The tags have a UF return address and offer of a reward.
4. From 1 April 2002 through 31 March 2003, we distributed a total of 7200 tags and 24 applicators (Table 1). We received all required permits and project descriptions from each of these programs.
5. From 1 April 2002 through 31 March 2003, we received a total of \$2919.32 in payment for tags and applicators, and an additional \$630 is promised (Table 1). These funds have been deposited in the University of Florida Foundation / CMTTP account that we maintain to receive payments for tags and applicators.
6. Table 2 shows the responses that we have received from participants on the allowable use of tagging data by NMFS. If no "Allowable Use" category is checked by the CMTTP collaborator, we assume that these are "No additional use without permission" as stated in the CMTTP Requesting Tags and Data Policy.
7. From 1 April 2002 through 31 March 2003, we received recapture reports for 554 sea turtles. Data were entered into the NEWTAG database, original taggers of the turtles were notified, and the individual reporting the tag was sent tagging information on the turtle and, if appropriate, a reward of \$5.00 per tag.

8. We continue to receive electronic tagging data files from some programs. These files have been converted to Access, and files from each locality for each project have been combined into one file, in particular NMFS Galveston and St. Lucie Power Plant. We plan to review how to improve the quality of these files to lessen the work involved in managing CMTTP databases.
9. We reviewed individually all hard copy data sheets that were submitted without an electronic file and entered all recaptures into NEWTAG. All original tagging records were filed after their numbers were entered into FINDTAG. The number of tagging programs that only submit hard copy data sheets is still significant. We plan to review how to encourage these CMTTP collaborators to submit their data electronically to lessen the work involved in managing CMTTP databases.
10. We store all CMTTP paperwork in two fireproof filing cabinets that were transferred to us from NMFS in 1999 when the ACCSTR assumed responsibility for managing CMTTP. These cabinets are now nearly full. We may need to purchase another fireproof filing cabinet in the coming year.
11. We received additional funding from NMFS this year to re-organize the basic structure of the CMTTP databases for greater efficiency. We are well underway with this process.

Table 1. Number of tags and applicators distributed from 1 April 2002 through 31 March 2003 with cost-recovery information. See Table 3 for organization codes.

Issue Date	Organization	Number of Tags	Number of Applicators	Cost	No funds available	Check Promised	Check Received
4/1/02	GALV	200	2	\$176			X
4/1/02	BOFT		1	\$0	returned to NBT for exchange		
4/3/02	AVES	600	0	\$420	X		
4/11/02	QURI	400	1	\$298			X
4/11/02	IRLS	100	0	\$70	X		
4/15/02	ORSU	100	1	\$88	X		
4/25/02	TXAM	100	0	\$70			X
4/25/02	MIAM	700	0	\$490			X
5/10/02	SVAN	300	4	\$282			X
5/13/02	NCWR	100	0	\$70	X		
5/13/02	BHIC	200	0	\$140			X
5/21/02	UNGA	200	0	\$140			X
6/11/02	MLCC	100	1	\$88	X		
6/19/02	TXAM	0	1	\$18			X
6/19/02	SABM	100	0	\$70			X
6/24/02	PMSC	100	1	\$88	X		
7/1/02	SCTY	200	0	\$140			X
7/1/02	IRLS	200	2	\$176	X		
8/1/02	CSBL	200	0	\$140			X
8/26/02	BOFT	700	0	\$490		X	
9/6/02	SCNR	100	1	\$88			X
9/10/02	SVAN	300	0	\$210			X
11/12/02	REMS	200	2	\$176			X
1/6/03	QURI	500	0	\$350			X
2/5/03	ASSH	100	2	\$106	X		
3/12/03	CHIBIQUI	1000	3	\$754	X		
3/12/03	AVES	0	2	\$36	X		
3/21/03	CULE	200	0	\$140		X	
3/24/03	KARU	200	0	\$140	X		

Table 2. List of allowable use of data approved by CMTTP participants, 1999 - 2003. See Table 3 for organization codes.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>No additional use without permission</b>	<b>Present/ publish any data</b>	<b>Present/ publish my turtles recaptured elsewhere</b>	<b>Present/publish my recapture data of turtles tagged elsewhere</b>
Kevin Bleck	HBSP		X		
Richie Moretti	HHMP		X	X	X
Jonathan Gorham	QURI		X		
Michael Bresette	QURI	X			
Kate Mansfield	VIMS	X			
Ross Witham	WTHM		X		
Michael Bresette	IRLS	X			
Cheryl Ryder	WHOL				
John Kerivan	CWLD				
Jerris Foote	MMLB	X			
David Addison	CINC	X			
Thane Wibbels	UNAB				
Jan Caton	JISL				
Hector Horta	PRNR				
Joanne McNeill	BOFT	X			
Larisa Avens	BOFT	X			
Ben Higgins	GALV	X			
Andre Landry	TAMU	X			
Kris Williams	SVAN		X		
Glenn Harman	CMSC		X		
George Baird	BBIO		X	X	X
Mark Thompson	SCNR		X		
Sally Hopkins-Murphy	SCNR	X			
Bruce Stender	SCNR	X			
Pearse Webster-SEAMAP	SCNR		X		
Kennard Watson	SABM				
Mark Dodd	GDNR	X			
Jonathan Aiken	CAYM				
Rebecca Bell	CITP	X			
Scott Brewer	CLMC		X	X	X
Ruth Boettcher	NCWR		X	X	X
Wendy Cluse	NCWR		X		
Red Munden	NCMF		X	X	X
Carlos Diez	CULE	X			
Linda Searle	BELZ				
Sheryan Epperly	MIAM		X		
Dennis Lee	MIAM			X	
Alejandro Fallabrino	KARU	X			
Andres Estrades	KARU	X			
Peter Pritchard	CHRI	X			
Donna Shaver	PINS	X			
Gilbert Powell	BHIC		X	X	X
Chris Johnson	JUNO	X			

Conrad Litz III	EPCT				
Mariel Labrana	MPAA				
Yolanda Leon	DMRP		X		
Mark Swingle	VMSM	X			
David Rostal	GASU		X		
Kenya Leonard	SCTY		X		
Anne Rudloe	GSML		X	X	X
Cindy Driscoll	MDNR	X			
Claudia Lombard	USVI			X	X
William Coles	USVI	X			
Trish Bargo	REMS		X	X	X
Ray Carthy/ Erin McMichael	CSBL	X			
Ray Carthy/Meg Lamont	CSBL	X			
Vincent Vera	AVES	X			
Scott Heppell	ORSU				
Jim Richardson	UNGA	X			
Brad Dawe	MLCC		X	X	X
Michelle Bauer	PMSC		X		
Tara George	ASSH	X			
Vivian Paez	CHIBIQUI		X	X	X

Table 3. The 4-letter codes for the CMTTP collaborators. These codes are maintained in the database "WHOTAGGED".

ABIO:	Applied Biology, Inc.
ACEN:	US Army Corps of Engineers
ANMA:	Anna Maria Turtle Watch Group
AQAM:	Aquarium of the Americas
ASSH:	Ascension Island - St. Helena Hawksbill Project
AVES:	Ministry of Environment, Venezuela (Aves Island Project)
BAHA:	Bahamas, Ministry of Agriculture and Fish (Colin Higgs)
BBIO:	CP&L Brunswick Biology Laboratory
BBIS:	Blackbeard Island NWR, GA
BCAS:	Broward County Audubon Society
BELZ:	Symbios, Belize
BHIC:	Bald Head Island Conservancy
BOFT:	NMFS Beaufort Laboratory
BUIS:	Buck Island National Monument
CAYM:	Cayman Islands Dept. of Environment
CCNS:	Cape Canaveral National Seashore
CFRA:	Cape Florida State Recreation Area
CHNS:	Cape Hatteras National Seashore
CHRI:	Chelonian Research Institute (Peter Pritchard)
CHWK:	Eddie Chadwick, <u>Mickey Anne</u>
CINC:	The Conservancy, Inc.
CINS:	Cumberland Island National Seashore
CITP:	Little Cumberland Island Turtle Project
CLMC:	Camp LeJeune Marine Corps Base
CLNS:	Cape Lookout National Seashore
CMSC:	Clearwater Marine Science Center
CNWR:	Culebra Island National Wildlife Refuge
CRCH:	Caretta Research (Charles LeBuff)
CSBL:	Cape San Blas, Gulf Co., FL (Ray Carthy)
CULE:	Culebra Island, Puerto Rico (Carlos Diez)
CWLD:	SeaWorld of Florida
DEFW:	Delaware Fish & Wildlife
DMRP:	Dominican Republic (Yolanda Leon)
DSCM:	Discovery Center Museum
ENPK:	Everglades National Park
EPCT:	Living Seas, EPCOT
FDEP:	Florida Dept.of Environmental Protection & Florida Marine Research Institute
FDNR:	Florida Department of Natural Resources & Florida Marine Research Institute
FWCC:	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission & FMRI
FGBS:	Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary
FLAQ:	Florida Aquarium, Tampa
FLPS:	Florida Park Service/ Save A Turtle
FPCR:	Florida Power, Crystal River Energy Complex
GALH:	Galveston Headstart Program
GALV:	NMFS Galveston Laboratory non-headstart studies

GASU: Georgia Southern University (David Rostal)  
 GDNR: Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
 GLPZ: Gladys Porter Zoo  
 GREF: Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary  
 GSAF: Gulf and South Atlantic Fisheries Development Foundation  
 GSML: Gulf Specimen Marine Laboratory (= PANA)  
 GUCB: Golfo de Uraba, Caribbean Colombia  
 GULF: Gulfarium  
 HBSP: Hammocks Beach State Park  
 HHMP: Hidden Harbor Marine Environment Project & Turtle Hospital  
 HIRT: Harold Hirth - Costa Rica (= UTAH)  
 HISP: Huntington Island State Park  
 HSTR: Halderman Creek Sea Turtle Research/ H.C. Fish House  
 INMA: Institute of Marine Affairs  
 INMS: Institute of Marine Science, Moorehead City  
 IRLS: Indian River Lagoon South (Michael Bresette)  
 JCWS: Johnson Controls World Services  
 JISL: Jekyll Island Authority  
 JSCH: Jeff Schmid, NMFS-Miami  
 JUNO: Marinelife Center of Juno Beach  
 KARU: Proyecto Karumbe, Uruguay  
 KSCE: Kennedy Space Center, Florida (Mario Mota)  
 KWAQ: Key West Aquarium/ Florida Marine Conservancy  
 LAAZ: Louisiana Audubon Zoological Park & Gardens  
 LTIP: Little Talbot Island State Park  
 MASS: Massachusetts Audubon Society  
 MDNR: Maryland Department of Natural Resources  
 MEDC: Marine Education Ctr/Bureau of Marine Resources: Marine Life Oceanarium  
 MIAM: NMFS Miami Laboratory  
 MLFL: Marineland of Florida  
 MMLB: Mote Marine Laboratory  
 MMSC: Marine Mammal Stranding Center  
 MONA: Mona Island Turtle Project  
 MPAA: Mar del Plata Aquarium, Argentina  
 NAIB: National Aquarium in Baltimore  
 NCAQ: All aquariums in North Carolina  
 NCCE: Wilmington (NC) District, Corps of Engineers  
 NCMF: North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries  
 NCWR: North Carolina Wildlife & Resources Commission  
 NEAQ: New England Aquarium  
 NOVA: Nova Southeastern University, Oceanographic Center  
 OORF: Okeanos Ocean Research Foundation  
 ORSU: Oregon State University, Dept. of Fisheries & Wildlife  
 OWFL: OceanWorld of Florida  
 PANA: Panacea Institute of Marine Science  
 PANC: NMFS Panama City Laboratory  
 PASC: NMFS Pascagoula Laboratory  
 PAUN: Pan American University



PINS: Padre Island National Seashore  
 PMSC: Ponce Inlet Marine Science Center  
 PRNR: Puerto Rico Department of Natural Resources  
 PSEG: Public Service Electric & Gas  
 QURI: Quantum Resources Inc.  
 REMS: Research, Environmental & Management Support, VA  
 RSMS: Rosenstiel School of Marine & Atmospheric Science (University of Miami)  
 SABM: St. Andrew Bay Resource Management Association  
 SADV: Sam Sadove  
 SANA: Caretta Research/Sanibel Island  
 SCCP: St. Croix Marine Turtle Conservation Project  
 SCNR: SC Department of Natural Resources/ SC Wildlife & Marine Resources  
 SCTY: Sarasota County of Natural Resources  
 SEAQ: Miami Seaquarium  
 SERO: NMFS Southeast Regional Office  
 SIRA: Sebastian Inlet State Recreation Area  
 SJPP: St. Joseph Peninsula State Park  
 SLCC: Shoreline Consulting Co.  
 SMEC: J. L. Scott Marine Education Center  
 STCB: Sea Turtle Conservation Bonaire  
 STPS: Sea Turtle Preservation Society  
 SVAN: Savannah Science Museum, Inc.  
 TOPS: Topsail, NC  
 TXAM: Texas A & M University, Institute of Marine Life Sciences  
 TXPW: Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Sea Rim State Park & USFWS  
 UNAB: University of Alabama at Birmingham  
 UNCF: University of Central Florida  
 UNCW: University of North Carolina Wilmington  
 UNFL: University of Florida  
 UNGA: University of Georgia  
 UNKN: Unknown data source  
 UNRI: University of Rhode Island  
 UNTX: University of Texas Marine Science Institute at Austin  
 USVI: U. S. Virgin Islands, Department of Wildlife  
 UTAH: University of Utah  
 UWFL: University of West Florida  
 VATC: Virginia Polytechnic Institute  
 VIMS: Virginia Institute of Marine Science  
 VMSM: Virginia Marine Science Museum  
 WHOL: NMFS/NEFC Woods Hole Laboratory  
 WTHM: Ross Witham Headstart (FDNR) Program  
 WWDL: World Wildlife Fund